

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 IO-14

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SCCT-02 DRC-01 /158 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0992

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NJIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL  
MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG)

REFS: (A) ADDIS 10824; (B) ADDIS 10838

THERE FOLLOWS COMPLETE TEXT ISSUED BY ENA OF PROCLAMATION  
NO. 1/1967 (ETHIOPIAN CLAENDAR) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN ETHIOPIA. THIS PROCLAMATION  
WAS BROADCAST OVER RADIO ETHIOPIA MORNING SEPTEMBER 12, 1974.

QUOTE: "ETHIOPIA TIKDEM" 1. ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA  
HAVE LOOKED, IN GOOD FAITH, UPON THE CROWN AS A SYMBOL OF THEIR  
UNITY, HAILE SELASSIE I, WHO HAS RULED THE COUNTRY FOR MORE  
THAN 50 YEARS EVEN SINCE HE ASSUMED POWER AS A CROWN PRINCE,  
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HAS ABUSED THE AUTHORITY, DIGNITY AND HONOR OF OFFICE FOR

THE PERSONAL BENEFIT AND INTEREST OF HIMSELF, HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND RETAINERS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE HAS LED THE COUNTRY INTO ITS PRESENT INEXTRICABLE SITUATION. MOREOVER, AS HE HAS PROGRESSED IN AGE, BEING 82 YEARS OLD, HE CANNOT SHOULDER THE HIGH RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS OFFICE.

2. THE PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM IS NOT DEMOCRATIC. THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE SO FAR SERVED NOT THE NATION BUT THE RULING ARISTOCRATIC CLASS AND THEMSELVES. HENCE, THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE REFRAINED FROM LEGISLATING ON FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL MATTERS SUCH AS LAND REFORM WHILE LEGISLATING LAWS TO PROMOTE THEIR INTERESTS AND THAT OF THEIR CLASS, THEREBY ADDING TO THE MISERY OF THE PEOPLE. THE EXISTENCE OF THIS PARLIAMENT IS INIMICAL TO THE PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES OF "ETHIOPIA TIKDEM."

3. LIKEWISE, THE 1955 REVISED CONSTITUTION WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE ABSOLUTE POWER TO THE EMPEROR WHILE PROVIDING A DEMOCRATIC FACADE FOR THE BENEFIT OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION. THE CONSTITUTION WAS NOT CONCEIVED TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE. IN FACT, THE CONSTITUTION ABROGATES THE NATURAL RIGHTS OF MAN BY DECREEDING THAT THESE RIGHTS WERE GRANTED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE EMPEROR. AS SUCH, THE 1955 CONSTITUTION DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSES THE PRESENT POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REFORMS.

4. THE FEUDAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS MISMANAGED THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY, LEADING IT TO THE PRESENT ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL QUAGMIRE. THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION HAS BEEN PROMULGATED TO ESTABLISH A PROVISIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FOR THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY AND THE SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE.

1. THIS PROCLAMATION MAY BE CITED AS "THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA PROCLAMATION, NO. 1/1967."

2. HAILE SELASSIE I HAS BEEN DEPOSED AS OF TODAY, MESKEREM 2, 1967 (SEPTEMBER 12, 1974).

3. A) THE CROWN PRINCE, HIS HIGHNESS MERID AZMATCH ASFA  
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WOSSEN WILL BECOME KING OF ETHIOPIA.

B) THE CORONATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AS SOON AS THE CROWN PRINCE RETURNS TO HIS COUNTRY.

C) THE KING WILL BE HEAD OF STATE WITH NO POWER IN THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

4. UNTIL THE PEOPLE ELECT THEIR GENUINE REPRESENTATIVES IN TRULY DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, PARLIAMENT (THE SENATE AND

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES) HAS BEEN CLOSED DOWN FORTHWITH.

5. A) THE REVISED CONSTITUTION OF 1955 IS SUSPENDED.

B) THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION, THE PROMULGATION OF WHICH HAS BEEN DEMANDED BY THE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, SHALL BE PUT INTO EFFECT AFTER NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS REFLECTING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE NEW ETHIOPIA AND TO SAFEGUARD THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE.

6. THE ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE HAS ASSUMED FULL GOVERNMENT POWER UNTIL A LEGALLY CONSTITUTED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY APPROVES A NEW CONSTITUTION AND A GOVERNMENT IS DULY ESTABLISHED.

7. ALL COURTS OF LAW THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SHALL CONTINUE THEIR NORMAL FUNCTIONS.

8. IT IS HEREBY PROHIBITED, FOR THE DURATION OF THIS PROCLAMATION, TO OPPOSE THE AIMS OF THE PHILOSOPHY "ETHIOPIA TIKDEM", TO ENGAGE IN ANY STRIKE, HOLD UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATIONS OR PUBLIC MEETINGS OR ENGAGE IN ANY ACT THAT MAY DISTURB PUBLIC PEACE AND SECURITY.

9. A SPECIAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO TRY THOSE WHO CONTRAVENE THE ORDERS ENUNCIATED IN NO. 8 OF THIS PROCLAMATION AND ALSO TO TRY FORMER AND PRESENT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO MAY BE CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF POWER. JUDGMENTS HANDED DOWN BY THE SPECIAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL ARE NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL.

10. ALL EXISTING LAWS THAT DO NOT CONTRAVENE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PROCLAMATION AND THOSE OF FUTURE ORDERS SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT.

11. THIS PROCLAMATION SHALL BE IN FORCE AS OF MESKEREM 2, 1967  
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(SEPTEMBER 12, 1974). THE COMMITTEE OF THE ARMED FORCES, POLICE AND TERRITORIAL ARMY. ADDIS ABABA, SEPT. 12, 1974. END QUOTE.  
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